

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 /105 W
-----103158 031235Z /13
P 031201Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8067
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 0551

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN
SUBJ: HEAVY WATER

REF: NEW DELHI 2238

1. IAEC CHAIRMAN SETHNA GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING LETTER TODAY:

QUOTE: YOU WILL RECALL OUR DISCUSSIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE
POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING HEAVY WATER FROM THE UNITED STATES
PURSUANT TO THE OFFER MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN HIS NEW DELHI
SPEECH. WE HAVE MADE AN ASSESSMENT OF OUR CURRENT REQUIREMENTS
AND WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING 75 MEGAGRAMS OF HEAVY
WATER FROM THE U.S. THE HEAVY WATER WOULD BE USED ONLY IN THE
RAJASTHAN REACTORS WHICH AS YOU KNOW IS UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS.
COULD YOU LET ME KNOW HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED FURTHER IN THE
REGARD? UNQUOTE.

2. SETHNA SRANG THAT NE NEEDS 30 ODD METRIC TONS OF HEAVY WATER
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE THE INITIAL CHARGE OF RAPP II.
THE BALANCE WOULD BE USED TO KEEP THE COMMON POOL FOR RAPP I
AND II FULLY CHARGED OVER THE NEXT YEAR. HE NOTED THAT
ANNUAL REPLENISHMENT FOR EACH RACTOR AT RAPP IS ABOUT 17-1/2
METRIC TONS.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO MY REMARK THAT WE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THE
RUSSIAN SUPPLY OF 200 TONS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE
INITIAL RAPP II CHARGE SETHNA SAID THIS WAS NOT THE
CASE. HE NEEDS ADDITIONAL HEAVY WATER FROM SOME EXTERNAL
SOURCE IF BOTH RAPP REACTORS ARE TO BE OPERATED AT
CAPACITY OVER THE NEXT YEAR. APPARENTLY HE WAS COUNTING

ON 66 TONS ANNUAL PRODUCTION FROM THE BARODA FACILITY TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT. HE SAID HE IS STILL COUNTING ON GETTING THE FULL 200 TONS FROM THE RUSSIANS. OUR HEAVY WATER WOULD BE CO-MINGLED IN THE RAPP POOLS WITH THE HEAVY WATER ALREADY THERE AND THE RUSSIAN HEAVY WATER. IT WOULD NOT BE USED ANYWHERE ELSE.

4. HE SAID THAT AS IMPLIED BY THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE ABOVE LETTER HE EXPECTS WE WILL NEED MORE INFORMATION AND THAT HE IS WILLING TO SUPPLY IT. HE SAID IN CLOSING THAT OUR HEAVY WATER WOULD BE UNDER FULL IAEA SAFEGUARDS OF THE TYPE THAT HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT FOR THE RUSSIAN HEAVY WATER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, HEAVY WATER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BOMBAY00551
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780097-0861
Format: TEL
From: BOMBAY
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803112/aaaadqrr.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7bc0bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 2238
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3134068
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HEAVY WATER
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7bc0bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014